

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-36 are presently pending; Claim 11 is amended herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

The pending application is presently on appeal. In the Final Office Action dated March 10, 2004, Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph and second paragraph. The amendment to Claim 11 addresses the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. This amendment is believed to simplify the issues presented for appeal. Therefore, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the present amendment should be entered for purposes of appeal. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

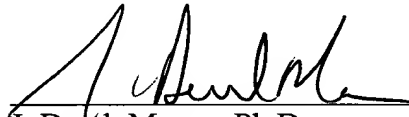
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